

Docket Number: 10991902-3
Application No. 10/649,564
Amendment A

REMARKS

Claims 41 – 45 are in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

All of the claims 41 – 45 were deemed to be anticipated by Kikuchi, US Patent No. 4,657,415.

In response, applicant notes that Kikuchi takes quite a different approach to the notion of changing the printhead-to-media spacing by setting the rotational position of a carriage about a carriage support rod.

In the office action (page 2, last paragraph) Kikuchi is said to disclose a structure and operation matching the last step of claims 41. Specifically, the office action states that Kikuchi discloses “*rotating the carriage (14) about the rod (15) with the carriage (14) at the latching location (A) to make the latch member (17, 18, 21, 22) engage the first chassis part (32)...*”

Applicant submits, however, that this is not what Kikuchi discloses. The location “A” in Kikuchi (identified as the claimed latching location in the office action) is a home position on one side of the printer having a matching position “B” on the other side of the printer. The Kikuchi carriage moves between these two positions during a printing operation.

The Kikuchi latch member (17, 18, 21, 22) does not engage the first chassis part (32) when the carriage is in the “latching position” A. Moreover, the Kikuchi carriage is not rotated about the rod (while in the latching location on the rod) to engage a chassis part.

Rather, the Kikuchi carriage is moved along the rod 15 and thus pushed against a plate 32 that is installed on the side of the printer. The position of that plate may be selected manually or mechanically. The plate 32 presents an inclined surface to the roller 26 on the lever 22 (Fig. 5). As the carriage is pushed against the plate 32 the lever 22 is swung about its pivot post 23 so that the geared opposite end of the lever rotates the gear-topped bolt 17. The bolt is mounted so that its rotation also rotates the carriage 14 about the rod 15 as the carriage slides along the rod.

Independent claim 41 has been amended to clarify that the carriage is rotated about the rod, to make the latch member engage the first chassis part, with the carriage *remaining* at the latching location on the rod. As noted above, Kikuchi fails to disclose or suggest this. Accordingly, claim 41 and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable.

As respects claim 44, the only solenoid (identified in the office action as the claimed pusher member) disclosed in Kikuchi is for setting the angular position of the plate cam 32.

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With that plate position set, the carriage is moved along the rod so that the roller 26 engages the plate cam and follows one side of the cam. When the Kikuchi carriage is at the predetermined axial position "A" (identified in the office action as the claimed predetermined axial position), the pusher member (solenoid) does not touch or is otherwise used to rotate the carriage about the rod at that location. Accordingly, Kikuchi fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 44, such as the step of "mounting to the carriage a latch mechanism that is oriented for engagement with the chassis and for movement into a latched position wherein the carriage is secured in the first rotational position when the latch mechanism is in the latched position." Consequently, applicant submits that claim 44 and its dependent claim 45 are also allowable.

Terminal disclaimer

Enclosed herewith is a terminal disclaimer for obviating the double patenting rejection made on page 4 of the office action.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant believes that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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